

Responsive Remarks

Claims 3, 15-16, 19-22, and 29 are pending. Please cancel claim 17. Claim 16 is amended. The indicated allowability of claims 3, 15, 19-22 and 29 is acknowledged with thanks. These allowed claims are unaffected by the present amendment.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Altman, U.S. Patent No. 6,239,774. However, its dependent claim, claim 17, was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant is acting on the Examiner's suggestion. Rather than amending claim 17, Applicant amends the base claim, claim 16, to incorporate all the limitations of claim 17. (There are no intervening claims. Claim 16, as amended, contains the allowable subject matter of claim 17, and thus is in condition for allowance.)

The requested amendment requires no additional search or examination. Please amend claim 16 as indicated, and cancel claim 17. An allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 7, 2006

By:



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